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## Vicious Burglar Beats Woman

### Dragnet Smashes Thieves' Federation



**SEEKS HELP**—Mrs. Joseph Smith, her sons, Ronald, Gary and David, gather around mail box waiting for check from husband, who just started new job after lengthy lay-off. Family needs food and cash to tide it over until Smith is able to send first pay-check from his job in Pomona.

### Mom. Four Children Face Hardship Over Food Lack

A North Torrance woman and her four children are facing three weeks of hardship unless she gets some financial help soon. Mrs. Joseph Smith, 35, of 3235 W. 189th st., said that the gas and electricity will be turned off this week and food will be scarce around the house until her husband can send her his first pay check on June 20.

Smith, who was laid off from his job for three months, has just started a new post as a tow truck operator in Pomona.

He won't receive his first check until June 19, and until then the family will have to struggle along on \$10 of food provided by the Salvation Army.

Mrs. Smith said that she has no cash to pay for the gas, electricity and water bills which are overdue, and that she is two months arrears on her rent.

**Need Cash, Food**

"We just need a little cash and food to tide us over," she explained.

Her husband resides in a rooming house in Pomona because he can't commute home, but has applied for jobs in the Torrance area.

Mrs. Smith said that she is unable to get assistance from the county, because the family has not lived in California for the required three years.

**Not Detroit**

"We don't want to go back to Detroit, jobs are even harder to find there," she explained.

### T-Bird Goes for Asking Price as Press Ad Result

Carl Simon of 4539 Narrot not only sold his 1957 Thunderbird after inserting a classified ad in the Torrance Press, but he even got his asking price for it.

He said that he received many calls inquiring about his car and was able to wait until he got the price he asked.

Quick results when you have something to sell, buy or rent can be yours if you call a courteous ad-taker at the Torrance Press at FA 8-2345.

### Thirteen Suspects Nabbed For 121 Thefts in Area

Eleven men, a woman and a boy were rounded up as members of a gigantic, loose-knit burglary federation which has plagued Torrance and other South Bay cities, it was announced today.

Torrance police said that the suspects were hauled in one by one for a period of more than two weeks, for a total of 121 burglaries in this area.

Value of stolen property, including at least \$200 in cash taken in three Torrance safe burglaries, was estimated as at least \$25,000.

The series of arrests were triggered by the apprehension of Allan La Var Cox, 28, of 1534 W. 214th st., on the 10th day of the investigation on May 16.

**Moving Out**

Cox was nabbed by Hank Porter, assistant police chief, and Detective Ralph Walker while he moved a trailer crammed with allegedly stolen goods from his former Lomita residence.

Thefts also included a \$12,000 haul of clothing and jewelry from a Manhattan Beach apartment.

Officers said that while none of the 13 suspects were dope addicts, all took pills and marijuana to keep them up for each job.

Another suspect, Harry Edward Lathrop, 28, of 2519 1/2 Carnegie lane, Redondo Beach, surrendered himself to police after he had fled to Louisiana.

**Shot by Police**

Lathrop and Cox were arrested recently by Hawthorne police who caught them on the roof of a business firm. Cox received a flesh wound when a shot was fired. Both had been out on bail when arrested by Torrance police.

Of the total of 121 burglaries with which the suspects are charged, 18 were committed in Torrance.

Porter and Walker were assigned to the burglary investigation after Police Chief Percy Bennett called a meeting of all detectives in the area from San Pedro to Lennox to solve the rash of thefts.

Bennett credited other departments for their cooperation and has sent letters of commendation to the officers who took part in the roundup.

**Prosecution**

The suspects have all been released to other departments who have better cases against them, for prosecution.

Other suspects arrested by Torrance detectives are Bill Lawrence Roberson, 26, 2005 Phelan lane, Redondo Beach; Dennis Shelby, 22, 15710 Larch st., Lawndale; Gail Eugene Cretson, 25, 4609 W. 161st st., Lawndale, and Roger Detiego, 23, 25902 Oak st., Lomita.

Manhattan Beach police nabbed Richard Leon Benfer, 30, of 4508 W. 156th st., said to be an ex-prize fighter, Clarence Le Roy Rehfield, 21, 15101 Greville ave., and Leone Josephine Schaefer, 21, 4508 W. 159th st., all of Lawndale.

Los Angeles harbor detectives arrested Charles E. Mitchell, 28, 21404 Vera and Oscar B. Bailey, 27, 21936 Main st., Torrance, for grand theft auto, and Albert Bullock, 47, 4 Berkeley Square, Los Angeles, on suspicion of receiving stolen goods.

Porter said that while the burglary suspects did not operate as a "gang" they allegedly worked with each other in a loose association.

### Bandit Makes Off with Gas Station Money

A soft-spoken, pug-nosed bandit made off with an undetermined amount of cash, after he held up a service station at Hawthorne and Redondo Beach blvds. Thursday.

Carlyle A. Kemmerson, 19, an attendant at the station, was ordered to remain in the rest room for 15 minutes after he turned over some bills from the cash box.

The bandit approached him at the lube room and ordered him to "walk down to the cash box like you are giving me some change. Don't try nothing. I can shoot if I have to."

The robber patting the front of his shirt at the same time, indicating he had concealed a gun there.

**WRONG DATE**

In our recommendation of candidates in the primary election, the date of the election was mistakenly put at June 9. The correct date is Tuesday, June 3.

**Democrats Outnumber GOP Here for Primary Voting**

Democrats will have a better than 3-to-2 edge in registration when Torrance voters go to the polls in Tuesday's primary election. At that time they will choose candidates for State, Federal, county and judicial offices and decide a \$30,353,000 bond issue for jail facilities.

Hot contests are expected in the gubernatorial, U. S. senate, attorney general and controller's state-wide races and for the county assessor's post.

In the 17th Congressional race, incumbent Cecil R. King is generally conceded a wide edge over his Republican opponent, Leonard Dimick.

**Repeat Battle**

In the 68th Assembly district, incumbent Vincent Thomas is again facing opposition from Tom Brewer, whom he defeated in 1956.

A hot contest is expected in the 46th Assembly District, which includes Hollywood Riviera, where the battle is between incumbent Charles E. Chapel and Iris A. Crochet, Inglewood councilwoman.

Two South Bay municipal judges, John A. Shidder and Otto B. Willett, are running unopposed.

**Governor's Post**

The governor's race will be a duel between Sen. William F. Knowland and Edmund G. Brown, attorney general.

The U. S. Senate contest is a three-cornered affair with Gov.

Goodwin J. Knight and Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco battling for the Republican nomination and Congressman Clair Engle seeking the Democratic nomination.

Glenn M. Anderson, Democrat, will oppose Harold J. Powers, incumbent, for lieutenant governor.

**Controller's Post**

Robert C. Kirkwood, Republican incumbent, is opposed for reelection by Alan Cranston, Democrat.

Two Democrats, Stanley Mosk and Robert McCarthy, will compete with two Republicans, Caspar Weinberger and Patrick J. Hillings, for the attorney general's office.

State Sen. Richard Ri-hardts faces a contest from two Democrats and two Republicans.

Voters will also elect a new sheriff to succeed Eugene W. Biscailuz, who is retiring, with Undersheriff Peter J. Pitches seemingly ahead of three other candidates.

Incumbent John R. Quinn will face heavy opposition for the assessor's post from Russell L. Hardy.



**PLAY BALL**—Young players practice for opening of the North Torrance Boys' Baseball League today in stadium built by themselves and fathers at Guenser Park. The fathers and boys de-

### Fathers Pitch in to Convert 'Eye-Sore' into Outstanding Baseball Playing Field

A group of North Torrance dads and their sons proudly feel they can show Walter O'Malley and his Dodgers a thing or two when it comes to getting a baseball diamond.

When the North Torrance League opens today at 1 p. m., the players and their parents will forget all about the hard work it took to convert the former dump site into a playing field.

The fathers and boys began work last February when they leased Guenser Park, at Gramery place and 177th st., from the city, which did not have the money to develop the park site.

Financed by such projects as a doughnut sale, benefit dance, a party and donations from businessmen, the material to build the diamond was purchased.

It took 1000 truck loads of fill dirt, a bulldozer, a grader, moving trucks, oil well-rigs and other heavy equipment to level the site.

Another 3000 feet of pipe, for backstop and bleachers, 5000 feet of chain link fencing, 2400 feet of board fence, and 10,000 board feet of lumber, not to count blisters, that went into the construction phase.

The league, which has 107 members playing in six teams, obtained three small buildings for concession stands, restrooms and announcing booths.

In all, fathers and sons spent 6000 man-hours to convert the neighborhood "eye-sore" into a playing field.

**COUNCIL MEETS MONDAY**

Torrance councilmen will meet Monday instead of Tuesday at 5:30 p. m. this week because of the primary election.



**CLOSING TO PUBLIC**—The city dump, located off Madrona st., will be closed by the city July 1 in order to conserve its use for municipal collection by several years and because officials believe it has become too dangerous for public use. City will also tighten down on residents who failed to pay their rubbish collection bills.

### Saved by Entry of Daughters

Two teenaged daughters may have saved the life of their mother who was viciously beaten by a burglar late Friday night.

Mrs. Vesta Lorene Van Gundy, 43, a grocery clerk of 4605 W. 164th st., was assaulted by a masked man while she was alone in the house brushing her hair.

She was recovering today from deep scalp lacerations which required six stitches, and a possible broken elbow, inflicted by an assailant who was armed with a hammer, deputies of the Lennox Sheriff's station reported.

**Saw Image**

Mrs. Van Gundy told deputies that she was brushing her hair in the bathroom when she suddenly observed a gloved hand in the mirror.

The next minute the man grabbed her and threw her on the floor and started to beat her with some type of a weapon. A hammer, containing paint, was later found outside the house.

The burglar grunted, "Shut up, Lorene, where is your purse?" as he pounded her over the head.

**Frightened Away**

He was frightened away when her two daughters, Ilona Fay, 16, of the same address, and Pat Ann Kiefer, 18, of 1140 W. 187th st., Torrance, arrived.

As soon as the daughters entered, the suspect bolted out of the front door and disappeared into the night.

Mrs. Van Gundy said the burglar concealed his face with a handkerchief pulled over the lower part of his face.

**Four Hurt in Holiday Collisions**

Four persons were injured in Memorial Day accidents here, Torrance police reported.

Three of them were given medical attention following a three-car collision at Hawthorne and Sepulveda blvds.

Injured were Nancy Lee Detlinger, 17, of 22435 Shadycroft ave., and Eugene James Fahey, 56, of 1704 Loma dr., Hermosa Beach, both drivers, and Mrs. Seraphine Fahey, 51, a passenger, police said.

The third driver, Norman Harris Carter, 19, of 1504 Perkins lane, Redondo Beach, was not hurt.

John Ross Daly, 17, of 4811 W. Elmdale, Rolling Hills, was injured in a collision with a vehicle driven by Jack Hinman, 39, of 405 Avenue D, Redondo Beach, at Calle Mayor and Palos Verdes blvd., officers said.

**Pick-up Dunning Planned**

Torrance will take a tougher attitude in collecting delinquent rubbish collection bills, with home owners who refused to pay up, facing court action.

At the same time, the city will close the public dump on Madrona st. to all but city vehicles as a two-fold measure to preserve its use for a longer period of time and as a safety factor.

**Take Action**

Councilmen instructed City Manager George Stevens to proceed "diligently" in collecting delinquent bills.

The stern action was ordered after Stevens reported that 12 per cent of accounts have not paid the \$1 a month service charge for collection of rubbish.

Under the recommendation made by the city manager, the city will file small claims action in Municipal Court against property owners who have ignored several reminders to pay up.

**Non-Users**

Persons who do not want municipal service will be able to fill out an affidavit each quarter saying they do not use the city service.

In an effort to control private collectors, the city will raise their annual fee to \$200 for one vehicle and \$25 for each additional one.

Councilmen will also specify that only closed vehicles may be used for rubbish hauling to prevent trash from spilling to the streets.

**City Has Jobs for Pool Aides**

June 10 will be the last date to apply for posts to staff the Victor Benstead plunge for the summer.

The city plans to give an examination for the jobs of pool manager, senior lifeguard and lifeguard. Pay for the manager will be \$2.25 per hour, the senior guard will get \$2 per hour and the lifeguards, \$1.75 per hour.

**EXHIBITS DRAWINGS**

Herb Case, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Case, of 3764 224th st., Torrance, exhibited two drawings in the Pomona College art exhibit. He is a sophomore, majoring in art.

**Plan Fee Required for Parks**

The city will have to spend money for master planning on three parks even though it intends to plant only grass in them, the Park and Recreation Commission will inform the city council.

It made a recommendation to allocate \$1500 to Architect William Woollett to design master plans for Los Arboles, La Romera and Paradise Parks, which are presently undeveloped.

Woollett told the commission Wednesday that it should have some type of plans for the eventual development of the play areas before installing sprinkler systems so that it will know where to put the watering system so that it will not interfere with buildings in the future when money is available.

The commission previously asked the council for money to seed the grass and install a sprinkler system in the small neighborhood parks to convert them from dust bowls to usable play areas.

Following discussion of the problems with Woollett, the commissioners will ask the councilmen to kick in an extra \$1500 to pay for the master plan.

Development of parks was held to a snail's pace by the defeat of the \$3,000,000 bond issue for recreation development.